

President Emeritus - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP President - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ Vice-President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
Secretary - David Jaegar, Jr. - K2DEJ Treasurer, Pete Brickman, KD2YLG
Board Members: Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP Patrick Negus, KD2YLG Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

The First Class of 2025

EGARA's first Amateur operator licensing test session of the year was held Saturday, February 8th, with all five applicants passing their exams. Thanks to the club's ability to now file test results electronically, call signs and license upgrades were processed and issued by the following Tuesday. In all, the exam session minted three new Technician class operators, while the others received upgrades -- one to General and one to Amateur Extra.

The club expects to hold its next exam session this spring, likely in May.



Volunteer Examiner Steve Vansickle, WB2HPR, scores an applicant's test.



The 1st Class of 2025 (L to R): Sean McCann, KE2FDN, Technician / Jeff Williams, KE2CVX, General / Anthony Proposer, KD2ZCC, Amateur Extra / James Catalano, KE2FDM, Technician / Lorraine Vincent, KE2FDU, Technician

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Spring Cleaning Set for March 1st

EGARA members will meet on Saturday, March 1st at the Search and Rescue Building to reorganize the club's equipment and supplies. In addition, gear and items that are deemed unnecessary will be culled out for disposal.

"We have lots of equipment but limited space," said Club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "We also need to make our storage system more efficient by sorting our gear and supplies by categories, such as Field Day, Hamfest, license test materials and items used for membership meetings, such as AV equipment."

The club also plans to acquire an outdoor storage shed for items such as antennas, cooking grills, and other materials which are used less frequently.

Membership Meeting - Thursday, March 13, 2025 - 7 pm

EGARA's Hamfest 2025 Sanctioned by ARRL

EGARA's 2025 Hamfest has been officially sanctioned by ARRL. With the approval comes a listing of the event on the League's Hamfest Calendar website page. It also gives the club ARRL materials and gift certificates that the club can use as door prizes.

"I am happy to confirm that ARRL Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD, has approved the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association to host an ARRL sanctioned event at your club's Hamfest in Rensselaer, New York, on June 7th," wrote Field Organization Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X.

This year's Hamfest will once again be held at the East Greenbush Fire Department Pavilion and run from 8 am to 1 pm. The event will feature indoor tables for sellers and vendors, tailgating in the parking lot, lots of prizes, and a variety of delicious food for breakfast and lunch.



EGARA Tapped to Address Civil Air Patrol Cadets

The Capital Region's Civil Air Patrol Squadron has asked EGAR to do an introductory presentation on Amateur Radio to the organization's cadets. The presentation will be lead by club member Pete Sochocki, NY2V, who will provide an overview to the group which consists of members between the ages of 12 and 19.



"This is an excellent opportunity for us to reach young people who have a demonstrated interest in public service and technology -- a group that would seem ideal in meeting our mission to get young people involved in Amateur Radio," said Sochocki. "Our presentation will also offer these cadets whatever assistance we can provide to get them licensed and on the air." Sochocki noted that both Amateur Radio and the Civil Air Patrol also have a shared mission of providing emergency services.

The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally funded, 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation and serves as the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. It was founded on Dec. 1, 1941, to mobilize the nation's civilian aviation resources for national defense service. CAP has since evolved into a premier public service organization that is a cost-effective force multiplier for Air Force-assigned missions.

Operating in all 50 states, Puerto Rico (including the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia and in more than 1,400 communities, CAP's aviation-connected volunteer professionals are engaged community members from a wide range of backgrounds and professions.

Civil Air Patrol's character and leadership programs for its cadets and aerospace education programs for K-12 are equally effective, providing a variety of innovative youth development initiatives and award-winning aviation/STEM resources.

EGARA's presentation to the group is set for March 20th at the Colonie VFW, where the group holds its meetings.

On the Beam

News & Notes

Trump Expands White House Oversight of the FCC

New executive order increases president's grip on independent agencies

By Randy J. Stine

A sweeping executive order signed by President Trump places the FCC — along with other independent government agencies — under the increased supervision of the White House. The FCC and other agencies were previously not under direct White House control.

Under the new order, all independent federal agencies and executive branches must submit draft regulations to be reviewed by the White House. The federal agencies will also have their performance standards and budget allotments reviewed by the White House.

Further, the independent agencies, which also include the Federal Trade Commission and Securities and Exchange Commission, must appoint White House liaisons and “regularly consult with and coordinate policies and priorities” with the White House.



The president's order will surely be controversial and the sweeping changes will likely face significant legal challenges.

The executive order lays out Trump's argument for the change, saying previous administrations have allowed so-called “independent regulatory agencies” to operate with minimal presidential supervision.

“These regulatory agencies currently exercise substantial executive authority without sufficient accountability to the president, and through him, to the American people,” the order says. “Moreover, these regulatory agencies have been permitted to promulgate significant regulations without review by the president.”

It continues: “These practices undermine such regulatory agencies' accountability to the American people and prevent a unified and coherent execution of federal law. For the federal government to be truly accountable to the American people, officials who wield vast executive power must be supervised and controlled by the people's elected president.”

The White House says in the order it intends to review independent regulatory agencies' obligations for “consistency with the president's policies and priorities.”

President Trump signs a series of executive orders in the Oval Office at the White House on Feb. 10, in Washington, DC. Trump has signed more than 60 executive orders, the most in a president's first 100 days in more than 40 years.

The executive order says the Office of Management and Budget will now have supervising authority over the agencies. The OMB will also be able to adjust independent agencies' apportionments to ensure that U.S. tax dollars are spent wisely.

Of the independent government agencies, only the Federal Reserve will be left untouched by the new executive order, and remain fully independent.

Other presidents have not only declined to challenge the independence of these agencies in court, but have in many cases tried to avoid even the appearance of interference in their actions. “Many leaders appointed to the agencies serve terms that last longer than a single presidency, in an effort to help shield them from political pressure,” Politico reported.

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

Legislation Will Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters



U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. have announced their joint re-introduction of legislation to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

“When disaster strikes, Amateur Radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn’t be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies,” said Senator Blumenthal.

Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death,” Senator Wicker said. “The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires.”

“Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur Radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times. My district is home to dozens of amateur radio operators ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency, and I am proud to lead this legislation,” said Congressman August Pfluger.

“As we know from recent natural disasters, Amateur Radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities’ best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we’ve taken a strong step in that direction,” said Congressman Courtney.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban Amateur Radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases.

Rick Roderick, the President of the American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL’s full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

Local Ham George Burns, W2SFD, Named Schenectady Fire Chief



George Burns, W2SFD, a 35 year member of the Schenectady Fire Department, has been named its new Chief following the retirement former chief Donald Mareno. Burns is a long time member of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association and the Trustee of that club's K2AE repeater.

Burns, who previously served as the department's assistant chief, was named acting chief last month. Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy said that three internal candidates from the department interviewed for the Chief post. "I enjoyed working with him as assistant fire chief and he's had a long, distinguished career with the department," McCarthy said. "He's going to continue that service to the people of Schenectady."

Burns was introduced as the city's new fire chief in a ceremony at City Hall. Burns first joined the department in 1995.

Get On the Air March 1st & 2nd for the ARRL International DX Contest

Peak conditions are being seen from Solar Cycle 25 -- just in time for the ARRL International DX SSB Contest. It gets underway at 0000 UTC on Saturday, March 1, and concludes at 2359 UTC on Sunday, March 2.

"This is a great contest to work some new DX and to add to your DXCC totals, as DX stations will be pointing their antennas towards the US and Canada this weekend," ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said.

The contest is an exercise in endurance, but also a great primer on DX propagation. Earlier in the month, the CW portion of the contest garnered at least 4,830 log submissions.

The nature of the contest means the whole world is trying to work North America. "Even modest stations can experience the thrill of working some new countries," said Bourque. "Just get on the air!"



If a full weekend of contesting sounds too overwhelming, hams are encouraged to set a small goal – perhaps 100 contacts to start. Once operators start working stations, they can start stretching the goal and can increase their score with multipliers. Since each of those multipliers is a DX entity, if confirmed with a QSL, it could equip the operator with the necessary contacts to apply for an ARRL DXCC® Award.

With band conditions expected to be good, and activity expected to reflect that excitement, Bourque hopes to receive even more log submissions. "The more, the merrier. We really hope hams will take advantage of this prime operating opportunity."

For complete rules and more information, visit www.arrl.org/arrl-dx.

User Report: TID Wireless Programmer

By Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

If you find programming your HT radio to be a painful experience -- especially when you're on the go -- you might want to check out the TID Radio BL-1 Wireless Programmer.

The compact unit is self-powered and plugs directly into a variety of popular HT radios, with more models being added on a regular basis. Once connected to your radio, the programmer interfaces with your phone via Bluetooth to download the repeaters you have selected.

Unlike most programming software, there is no computer required, as the BL-1 is 'app' driven. The "Odmaster" app is available for download for either an Android or iOS device. I was able to successfully program several of my compatible radios with my Android phone. The list of compatible HT radios can be found at the Odmaster website at: <https://web.odmaster.net/>. Best of all, the app uses your phone's location to call up repeaters that are nearby to your current location -- very helpful if you're on the road and in an unfamiliar area.



Program & Setting		Save
UV5R Test Image 2		
Channel Function		Clear
Channel	1	
RX Frequency	146.700	
TX Frequency	146.100	
Dec	114.8	
Enc	114.8	
TX Power	HIGH	
Scan Add	OFF	
W-N	W	
Bust Lockout	OFF	
Beat Shift	OFF	
RX/TX List		Write

The format for programming is straight forward. Channel, TX/RX frequency and CTCSS tones. The function tab allows you to set squelch levels, scan modes, etc. When your list of repeaters is complete, you simply click the "Write" button and the BL-1 loads it into your radio. When the programming is complete, you also have the ability to save the image for next time. This is helpful if you want to have two or more repeater lists available for different areas.

The app is safe and fully complies with the rules of Google Play and the Apple Store. It does require that you turn on location as it uses that information to call up repeaters in your area. It also needs Bluetooth to be turned on so your phone can interact with the BL-1.

The app does requires setting up a user name and password. In addition, the image files created using this app are stored in your account. The advantage is that you can have multiple iOS/Android devices and multiple BL-1 all able to access these image files. This data can also be accessed via the Odmaster Website. This gives the added flexibility to create and modify your data images using a laptop or PC.

Pros:

- Bluetooth. No programming cable or drivers required.
- Both iOS and Android.
- Web based programming via Odmaster
- Small size. Great for Field programming
- Automatic repeater selection from repeater database
- Over 100 different models covered, with new models are continually being added.

The BL-1 Wireless Programmer is currently listed on the TID Radio website for \$9.99. It can be found at:
https://tidradio.com/products/radio-wireless-programmer?_pos=1&_sid=27bb36842&_ss=r

An Easy Online Antenna Length Calculator

If you're looking for an easy way to calculate the length of wire you need for an antenna on a particular frequency, look no farther than the online calculator created by WS6X! All you need to do is to enter the desired resonant (center) frequency in the form, then click "Calculate". The correct lengths for the various models of antennas will be displayed. A screenshot of the calculator is below and it's available at this link:

https://www.ws6x.com/ant_calc.htm

Enter primary operating frequency in mHz.

Inverted Vee, approximate angle from horizontal.

Click to or

Standard Flat-Top Dipole

Full Half-Wavelength Dipole	124 ft. 9.6 inches (38 mtrs.)	For optimal performance over average ground, the half-wave dipole should be installed a minimum of 1/2 wavelength above ground. See drawings.
Each Leg	62 ft. 4.8 inches (19 mtrs.)	

Inverted Vee

Full Half-Wave Inverted Vee	121 ft. 0.7 inches (36.9 mtrs.)	Over level ground, the minimum height for the apex (feedpoint) of an Inverted Vee is determined by the angle (downward slope) of the Vee legs. BE SURE to add the height above ground of the end supports. The horizontal spread of Vee will be the distance from end point to end point, plus the tie off points. See drawings.
Inverted Vee, Each leg	60 ft. 6.4 inches (18.4 mtrs.)	
Minimum Vertical Height	30 ft. 3.6 inches (9.2 mtrs.)	
Minimum Horizontal Spread	104 ft. 9.6 inches (63.8 mtrs.)	

Quad Loop

Full One-Wavelength Loop	268 ft. 0 inches (81.7 mtrs.)	Over level ground, the minimum height for the top corners of the quad loop is the length of one side plus the height of the bottom support posts. Quad loops are most frequently fed in the center of the bottom, horizontal leg.
Each Side	67 ft. 0 inches (20.4 mtrs.)	
Feedpoint Distance from Bottom Corner	33 ft. 6 inches (10.2 mtrs.)	

Equilateral Delta Loop

Full One-Wavelength Loop	268 ft. 0 inches (81.7 mtrs.)	Over level ground, the minimum mounting height for the apex of a Delta Loop is the altitude plus the height of the support posts. If the loop is an equilateral triangle as shown, the Minimum Horizontal Spread = the length of one side plus the distance to the tie off points (support posts). Be sure to read the discussion about sloping Delta Loops, below.
Each Side	89 ft. 4 inches (27.2 mtrs.)	
Feedpoint Distance from Apex	67 ft. 0 inches (20.4 mtrs.)	
Feedpoint Distance from Bottom Corner	22 ft. 4 inches (6.5 mtrs.)	
Minimum Vertical Height	77 ft. 0.4 inches (23.6 mtrs.)	

EGARA February Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Introductions were made by all members (16) present.
- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ made his report:
- Repeater Update: Jackson noted that the club may have access to Rohn tower sections for the repeater and that he would follow up. A tower in Lenox, Mass. was also located by member Pete Gilbert, KE2EJO that required dismantling and removal from its existing site. Jackson noted that the repeater antenna would need to be at least 50' up the tower to overcome local geography to prevent shadowing in Albany. Jackson noted that he had reached out to Representative, Paul Tonko about grants through FEMA for a standby generator for the repeater site and the RCSAR building.
- The February 8th VE Session rendered three new Techs, one General, and one Extra who received a perfect score on their test. (see story on page 1)
- Jackson also announced that the Winter Field Day went well with 17 participants, and over 330 contacts with the majority of the contacts made on CW and Voice by member Justin Cummings, KG2RG at his home station.
- Jackson said he spoke with the new ENY ARRL Director, Ed Wilson, N2XDD about connecting with local schools, using online VE tools, and the possibility of using a free web hosting service for the club's site www.egara.org. He noted that the club's current website host, Wix was increasing the price of maintaining the website by \$130/yr. He added that if the club were to move the current website to a new host it would need to be completely redesigned since Wix uses a proprietary design for their sites.
- New Business: Walt Snyder, N2WJR and several other members asked if there was a way to check membership status on the website to confirm if a person's dues were paid or not. Bryan, W2RBJ suggested a "members only" area where members could look up their status with the club via a username and password.
- Hisen Zhang, KD2TAI noted that he also spoke with Ed Wilson, N2XDD at the RPI W2SZ Swapfest who suggested the idea of a collaborative Regional/ARRL Sectional Hamfest. Many members agreed.
- Pat Negus, KD2ZQR suggested that the club and members should consider reaching out to GMRS operators to drum up new membership and to create new Hams. Multiple members thought this was a good idea. Pat also noted that he recently had heard a rumor that Stephen Marsh, KC2USX had been banned as a member of EGARA and wanted the club to write a letter to Stephen and his family stating that he was still a member in good standing since the rumor was untrue, the club agreed to send out a letter to Stephen Marsh.
- Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO noted that he was approached by the Civil Air Patrol to host a Ham Radio/Search and Rescue presentation in March to create interest among cadets to potentially bring younger members to the club. A motion was made by Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO and seconded by David Jaeger, K2DEJ to have EGARA host a Ham Radio presentation for the Civil Air Patrol. (see story on page two)
- Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC had the idea to offer a custom designed coffee mug with the club's logo on it to raffle off at the Hamfest and suggested that whoever won the mug could get free coffee for the duration of the Hamfest.
- Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ noted that it would benefit the club to find new vendors for the Hamfest. Jim Pendolino suggested the Wireman, David Jaeger stated that he would reach out to the Wireman to judge interest.
- John Fisher, W2JSF suggested that the club should have a "Test out" table at the Hamfest for items that attendees purchase, multiple members liked this idea.
- David Jaeger, K2DEJ suggested having a "club table" for other clubs in the area to use and participate.
- Jim Pendolino suggested that since the .270 machine was currently down, the club should reach out to Bob Isby, K2RHI to see if they could use the 145.310 repeater as an alternative "call in" frequency for the Hamfest. Jim also suggested the club could use the 444.700 repeater for a UHF call in frequency as well.
- Vice President's Report: Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR noted that the club needed to host a work day to organize equipment and supplies. The club agreed to have a work day on Saturday March 1st at 10:00 AM with lunch afterwards. Jim Pendolino noted that the club could use an extra closet that RCSAR wasn't using.
- Treasurer's Report: Peter Brickman, KD2YLG, provided an update on club finances and noted several members had paid dues. He reported that the club's liability insurance policy would be renewed in March.
- The meeting ended at 8:09 with a motion made by Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU, seconded by Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO, and was approved unanimously.

Warren County Radio Club *Ham Radio Swapmeet* April 12th 2025 10am until 2pm



Inside the common area
at the Aviation Mall
Queensbury, NY Exit 19 off I-87
Entrance near
99 Restaurant/Planet Fitness

Entry is FREE \$10 fee per table to sell
Raffle tickets will be available
for purchase

License testing will be
held at 8am in the old
American Eagle store



www.w2wcr.org

Would you like to learn more
about amateur radio?
Check out our public info table
or discover more at
www.w2wcr.org

Spring Ahead with Gear from Our Hamfest Sponsors!



Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association

SwapFest

WHEN: Saturday, March 8, 2025

Admission: *Free!!!*

**Where: Cornell Cooperative Extension Building (aka Solar Building)
50 West High Street (Rt 67 W), Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

Doors open at 7 a.m. • Refreshments. • Door Prize raffle!

Break out of the Hamshack after a long winter, and come have some Radio Fun! Feast your eyes on all sorts of radio gear – new and old. Enjoy Eyeball QSOs with friends you've made on the air.

The tables will be limited to those in the room and will be on a first come first serve basis.

VE Test Session for new licensees and upgrades held at Noon in the same facility.

(Contact Jim KG2H@arrl.net for test session details.)

We've held this FAMOUS spring event for many years, and it gets more popular every year. If you need talk-in, try 147.00, 147.36 or 147.24 repeaters. PL is 91.5 hz for all.



Need to Pay Your EGARA Club Dues?
It's as easy as www.EGARA.org/pay-dues

CALENDAR

March, 1, 2025, 10:00 am - Club gear reorganization, Search and Rescue Building

March 13, 2025, 7 pm - Regular Monthly Club Membership Meeting - Rensselaer Co. Search and Rescue Building

Pro Tip: Get a Nano VNA!

A NanoVNA is a great way to analyze an antenna and they're super cheap at around \$50.

The NanoVNA is a handheld Vector Network Analyzer (VNA) with small form factor.

It offers low cost yet high performance, with LCD display, and can be powered from a 3.7V Li-ion battery.

It has become the most popular VNA and antenna analyzer project in the ham community since its release in 2019. Best of all, there's plenty of information online and videos available about how to best use it!



The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.



GEAR FOR SALE

- ACOM 1010 Linear Amplifier - 600 Watts pep - can use on 120 or 240 volts - \$1700
- YAESU FT-1200 Transceiver All HF bands /100 Watts pep - \$700 with microphone;
- YAESU FT-950 Transceiver - All HF bands/100 watts pep - \$400 with microphone.
- VIBROPLEX "Bug" semi-automatic key. Original "PRESENTATION" Model with Gold Plated baseplate escutcheon. Heavily chromed upper parts, bright red finger pieces, jeweled bearings. Lists for \$350, sell only \$250, plus postage if shipped. Beautiful wood case.

All equipment is working, clean and in very good condition. Contact Steve / WB2HPR by email at: stevewb2hpr@proton.me

- Radio Shack 12 volt 10 amp power supply \$20.

Contact Ridge Macdonald at:
kb2hwl@gmail.com

- **Classic Hallicrafters SX-130 Receiver.** Freshly overhauled and aligned. Offers a 4 bands covering AM broadcast and shortwave from 1.725 to 31.5 MHz. Also provides for reception of code (CW), voice (AM) and upper and lower single sideband (SSB) signals. \$125.

Contact Bryan at: W2RBJ@Outlook.com

Sell your unused gear with a free ad in Sidebands!

Send details to: W2RBJ@Outlook.com